



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application

Inventors: James F. Zucherman, et al.
Appl. No.: 09/978,386
Confirm. No.: 4255
Filed: October 16, 2001
Title: CURVED DILATOR AND METHOD

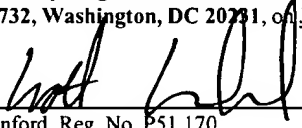
PATENT APPLICATION

Art Unit: 3732
Examiner: Unassigned

Customer No. 23910

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Art Unit 3732, Washington, DC 20231, on January 23, 2002.



Scott D. Sanford, Reg. No. P51,170
Signature Date: January 23, 2002

(Attorney Signature)

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Art Unit 3732
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

It is requested that the information identified in this statement be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above-identified application. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56. If this is a continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application, it is understood that the Examiner will consider all information which was considered by the Office in a parent application. MPEP §609. Such information therefore is not listed herein unless it is desired that the information be printed on a patent issuing from the subject application.

Notwithstanding anything stated herein, a copy of each of the references listed herein is attached to this disclosure.

This disclosure may include references previously cited. However, these references are attached hereto for completeness.

Enclosed with this statement are the following:

- ☒ Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is requested to initial the form and return it to the undersigned in accordance with M.P.E.P. §609.
- ☒ A copy of each cited document as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.98. Copies are not submitted of documents previously submitted by the applicant in a parent application from which benefit under 35

U.S.C. §120 is claimed, 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d)(1), with an information disclosure statement submitted in the parent application which complies with the Sept. 8, 2000 or subsequent revision of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a-c). If any of the cited/submitted documents is in a foreign language, a concise explanation of relevance is provided pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(i). For foreign language documents cited in a search report by a foreign patent office, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance is satisfied by the submission herewith of an English language version of the search report. MPEP §609A(3). If a written English-language translation of a non-English language document, or portion thereof, is within the possession, custody or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in §1.56(c), a copy of the translation accompanies this statement, 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(ii), and satisfies the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance, MPEP §609A(3).

☒ Copies of the International Search Reports dated November 16, 2001 and November 19, 2001 and cited references..

This statement should be considered because:

☒ **37 C.F.R. §1.97(b).** This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because:

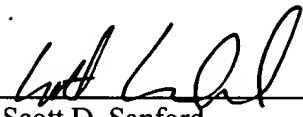
- (1) It is being filed within three months of the filing date of an application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);
-- OR --
- (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage;
-- OR --
- (3) It is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits,
-- OR --
- (4) It is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

☒ **Fee Authorization.** The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge underpayment of any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 06-1325. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

FLIESLER DUBB MEYER & LOVEJOY LLP

Date: 1.13.02

By: 
Scott D. Sanford
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